

III. Claims 18-23, drawn to a molding process, classified in class 264,
subclass 311; or

IV. Claims 24-27, drawn to a subdividing process, classified in class 83,
subclass 13;

Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement. However, to be fully responsive, Applicant hereby elects Group III, claims 18-23.

(2) The Office Action has additionally required that an election of species be made under 35 U.S.C. § 121 from the following two groups:

Species A: FIGS. 1-6; and

Species B: FIGS. 7-12.

Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement. However, to be fully responsive to the requirement, Applicant hereby elects the following species:

| SPECIES | FIGURES | CLAIMS |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| B | 7-12 | 14, 18-27 |

At least claims 14 and 24-27 are generic to *both* species. At least claims 18-23 read on species B.

According to the M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Applicant respectfully submits that the examination of the entire application, including claims 14-27 and FIGS. 1-15, would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. This is particularly so because the Examiner has not provided reasons why the examination of all the species would be a serious burden. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the elections

requirement be withdrawn and that all claimed species be examined in this application. If Examiner chooses to maintain the election requirement, however, Applicant expects Examiner, if the elected species is found allowable, to continue to examine the full scope of the elected subject matter to the extent necessary to the patentability thereof, *i.e.*, extending the search to a reasonable number of non-elected species, as is the duty according to M.P.E.P. § 803.02 and 35 U.S.C. §121.

Furthermore, Applicant has paid a filing fee for an examination of all claims in this application. If the Examiner refuses to examine the claims paid for when this application was filed, applicant must pay duplicative fees to file divisional applications for the non-elected or withdrawn groups of claims.

In conclusion, the Examiner has not shown that there would be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction was not made.

No fee is due in connection with the submission of this amendment. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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